E. H. Sothern, World-Famous Legitimate Actor Passes Away

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RAY LEWIS
Editor and Managing Director

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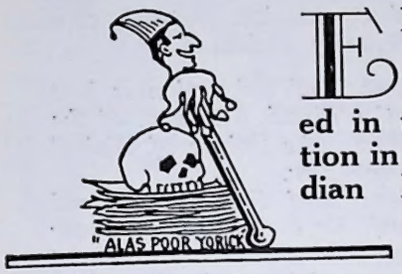
AGAIN THE PERFORMING RIGHTS



EXHIBITORS in Canada will be extremely interested in the Manitoba situation in respect to the Canadian Performing Rights Society License and the Manitoba Telephone System, the report of which controversy we published in last week's issue of The Digest.

The situation in Manitoba is just such a one as The Digest cited as possible in its advice to exhibitors, in respect to taking out a Performing Rights License, there was no guarantee that the exhibitor, having duly paid his license, would receive the protection, or the Performing Rights which he expected he had paid for in his license, since the Performing Rights did not cover all copyright musical rights.

The Manitoba Telephone System paid $3,000 for a contract license as is disclosed by Mr. John E. Lowry, commissioner of Manitoba telephones, but CKY, the Manitoba station was prevented from broadcasting certain British music without paying an additional fee of $100 per performance to a New York firm, which held copyrights.

The Manitoba Telephone System, on behalf of CKY, cancelled its Performing Rights contract upon which $1,500 had been paid on the signing of the contract, and an additional $750.00.

It appears that Mr. Lowry was desirous of producing excerpts from "Merrie England", a British musical comedy, in a coast-to-coast network for the Canadian Radio Commission. Mr. Lowry communicated with the Performing Rights Society to ascertain whether the Society's repertoire included this copyright. The reply was that Chappel-Harms, Incorporated, of New York, owned this copyright. The commissioner wrote to this New York firm and was advised that the Canadian Society had no rights "of any of our musical plays".

The Digest has further pointed out that Producers of Motion Pictures should secure entire rights when purchasing recording rights; and it has also provoked the query as to what attitude authors of plays, etc., would take in connection with a license fee for their material in Talking Pictures, the latter an anticipated situation worth consideration.

TRIPPING THE LIGHT FANTASTIC

THE Motion Picture Industry in Toronto will officiate as hosts on the occasion of the Motion Picture Ball, Friday, November 10th, remember the date, and the place, Crystal Ball Room, King Edward Hotel. Time, Nine o'clock, the beginning; the end no man can tell, much less a Motion Picture Trade paper, but the orchestra ceases to entice you to "trip the light fantastic" at 3 A.M.

There will be food and refreshments served from 9 P.M. until the closing hours; and after so many hours of diversified pleasures, even Romanelli's orchestra, which is famous for making merry hearts and light feet, will not be called upon to endeavor to jazz up the spirits of the "early morners".

This Motion Picture Ball is an annual, which is to grow in magnitude and popularity. This year with the King of Hosts, Mr. N. L. Nathanson, acting in the capacity of the patron of the magic wand which makes the best for this occasion possible, it looks like a Big Night, a Joyous Night, a Gala Night for the Motion Picture Ball, King Edward Hotel, Friday, November 10th. Remember the date. "Hold Everything!"

"I Was a Spy" Makes Hit, Tivoli, Toronto

RAY PRESENTS

RAY LEWIS

MR. HENRY NATHANSON called me the other day and said, "Ray, I particularly want you to see Jean Harlow in 'Bombshell', it is ENTERTAINMENT with not only a capital E, but every letter in the word should be capitalized. It will give you the best laugh you have had in a long time, and I know Ray, you are long on laughs." Now my dear exhibitor-friends, and distributors, also my public who like to know something about Motion Pictures, and who read The Digest weekly, you must know that year after year Leo the Lion has given me occasion to be merry, happily merry, for year after year, Leo increases the quality of his pictures and stars, and produces features which continually win Awards of Merits.

As for Jean Harlow, I am among her first admirers, an admirer for many reasons; first, she is clever; secondly, I like beautiful women, although they have no sex appeal for me. I like to look at one with the same satisfaction as you enjoy looking at a beautiful home, a beautiful building, a painting, a bronze, an exquisite bit of lace, an English garden, in fact anything and everything that has been created beautiful, so that life may be sufficiently alluring to be worth living.

Jean Harlow is one of Leo's cubs, which Leo has suckled into lionlike proportions and popularity. Jean has had a great "break" with Leo, because Leo has the lion's share of brains in this Industry. Leo knows star-dust, starry material, Leo knows how stars can be moulded and made, and Leo is eager to do this star-making, because Leo never lost the balance and sense of proportion in relationship to stars, pictures, theatres and stock flotation. Leo was always keener to float stars than theatre shares; and the answer today is as it was always, Leo is right.

EDITORIALLY we have announced the Motion Picture Ball which is to take place at the King Edward Hotel, Crystal Ballroom, Toronto, Friday, November 10th, 1933.

The committee in charge, O. R. Hanson, Allied Exhibitors of Ontario; Col. John A. Cooper, Motion Picture Distributors Association; Harry Ginsler, Iola Theatre; A. Polakoff, Mayfair Theatre; B. Geldsaler, C. Robson, Jack Arthur, J. A. Troyer, Famous Players Canadian Corp. Ltd.; H. Masters, United Artists. Incidentally, "The Loud Speaker" is to be Master of Ceremonies and is he going to be the Big Noise? Just ask me. J. F. Meyers, RKO Distributing Corp.; H. O. Paynter, Vitagraph Ltd.; J. L. Hunter, Paramount Film Service. Tickets, three dollars each, obtainable at every Film Exchange. Get your tickets early as tickets will be limited to make the event exclusively Motion Pictures, comfortable for dancing and intimately sociable.

The National Council of Education is host to a presentation at the Tivoli, Toronto, of the talking picture, "H.R.H. The Prince of Wales" in which H.R.H. is the star.

Their Excellencies, Lord Bessborough and Lady Bessborough will be the guests of honor for this occasion. Invitations have been sent out with the discreet note, "decorations", which means full evening regalia for the men, and decollete for the ladies. This film is released by Regal Films in Canada, and is reported as a big enough feature for this very exceptional presentation.

WHILE we are on the subject of H.R.H. The Prince of Wales, may we take you out of the atmosphere of Royalty, into that of royal entertainment as presented by Mae West in "I'm No Angel". There was a preview of this picture at The Uptown, Toronto, Friday, October 27th, at 11.15. The theatre was crowded and no one appeared to be worried that the clock moved its hands around close to 1.30 A.M. before we heard "God Save The King".

Your editor remarked to Tom Daley, who had a grin on his face from "ear to ear" as they say in Classic English, that having witnessed Mae West's performance in "I'm No Angel" it was urgent to play "God Save The King". This is not in any way disrespectful to His Majesty, nor to the National Anthem, it is just an expression of merriment which Mae West inspires.

Fate, Destiny, if you will, Luck, are strange, or shall we say mystical elements in our careers as individuals, or collectively as units of Industry, of Finance, of Service, of Nations. It appears that Parmoaunt was to be given a chance to save itself from an entire economic deluge and so along came Mae West. What a Life-Saver!

"I'm No Angel" takes you into the sawdust ring, it is all about "barkers", circus-performers and those who use elephants, trained flees, lions and sword-swallowers to aid the nimbleness of their itchy palms and 'taking" fingers.

MAE WEST is no angel, albeit she may be a fallen one in this story, but the bump, which was not very far from the ground in the first place evidently gave her a few callouses which made her master of her slaves, the latter who pay for everything they receive, with interest, and who also

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Gaumont-British to Release 31 Additional Films to Regular Schedule for America

Observations

By The Editor

AFTER seven years of struggle the dreams of a Brandon, Manitoba-born boy have now come true. The boy is Ralph Zink, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Zink, Brandon. Ralph, when still a boy, went to California with his mother, and while attending university, developed a liking for theatricals. For seven years he pursued fame and fortune through the well-travelled route of stock companies, keeping his ears attuned to possible offers from Hollywood.

This past summer he received his first Hollywood offer. He stood up before the movie camera and tested. He was signed to a contract and was told to appear in his first motion picture as leading man to Ruth Chatterton in "Mandalay". His professional name is Donald Woods.

* * * *

STANDING room was at a premium on Medicine Hat, Alta., station platform as large numbers of friends and well-wishers, supplemented by the rousing music of of the Kiltie Band, united to provide a merry send-off for Miss Helen Gray, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Gray, of Medicine Hat, as she commenced October 12 her victorious journey "Hollywoodward" to enter a film production there as the winner over all the other Canadian girls in the Paramount studio's "Search for Beauty" contest.

When Miss Gray, smartly gowned and carrying a magnificent bouquet of autumn blooms, arrived on the scene she was given a hearty ovation by the whole assembly. Individual well-wishers cried out best wishes and congratulations, while the charming "Miss Canada", evidently intent on her new experience and yet reluctant to part from her many friends in the city, shook hands here and there throughout the crowd before boarding the train.

Permanent recording of the send-off of Canada's contest winner was made by newsreel moving pictures, taken by George Fox, Jr., who used a professional movie camera for the purpose, in response to requests from the Paramount studio.

An interesting feature, in connection with the details of Miss Gray's itinerary, will be the meeting arranged between Helen and Miss Wynne Gibson, prominent Paramount star, who will meet the Canadian winner at Los Angeles. Together, they will motor to the Roosevelt Hotel, Hollywood, to meet the 29 other finalists representing every English-speaking country in the world.

While in Hollywood, Miss Gray, with all the 30 contestants from other countries, will be a guest of the studio at the Roosevelt Hotel, and will be paid $50 per week while undergoing the tests for film honors. While only one man and one woman will be finally chosen, there is a prospect that some of the contestants may secure screen work. At the final contest for the "Panther Woman", held last year, no less than five girls received movie contracts, although only Kathleen Burke won the coveted role.

Miss Gray is a worthy upholder of Canada's bid for movie fame. She is a spelndid physical type, is poised, and confident over the ordeal facing her, being evidently possessed of a strong personality. She carries the wishes of her many friends and of the West for her success in the land of make-believe.

THE Mayfair Theatre, Waterloo St., St. John, has just celebrated its first Anniversary Birthday. J. M. Franklin is the President of the Mayfair Theatre, Limited. A. L. Gaudet is the local manager of the company which also operates two theatres in Halifax and is building a new one in Dartmouth, N.S. The three Maritime theatres operate under same policy, presenting double bills. Mr. Franklin, who has been associated with Motion Pictures for twenty-two years in Canada, directs the policies of these theatres.

Mr. Franklin states that the Saint John theatre has the finest projection booth of any theatre in the Maritime Provinces, the latest and most costly equipment having been installed.

* * * *

CAPITOL Entertainment at Port Hope adds the United Artists, Twentieth Century Pictures to the theatre's program. The first of the releases is "The Bowery" with Wallace Beery, George Raft and Jackie Cooper. This picture played to packed business at Loew's, Toronto, recently.

Constance Bennett in "Moulin Rouge" is another big attraction. "Moulin Rouge" is a musical extravaganza which sings and dances its glittering way through Vienna, Paris and New York.

Walter Winchell, world-famous journalist, is responsible for "Broadway Through A Keyhole". The cast includes Texas Guinan, Constance Cummings, Abe Lyman and his band, etc.

George Arliss will be presented in "Red Tape" and later in "The Great Rothschild". Beautiful Ann Harding, who has won fame in stage and screen will be seen in "Gallant Lady" with that most estimable artist, Clive Brook.

Capitol Entertainment at Port Hope, by way of United Artists' attractions will also present Eddie Cantor in "Roman Scandals", can you imagine it? "Emperor Jones" with Paul Robeson, the star and the author both world-famous and from the sublime to the ridiculous, "Joe Palooka" with Jimmy Durante, Jimmy who just vibrates all over the scene, gives you high-blood pressure trying to keep up with him, but also gives you the sense of being mightily alive, red-blooded, possessed of a sense of humour and even a feeling of kinship with Durante's famous "shnozzle".

* * * *

THE B.I.P. share capital under the merged plan, whereby Associated British Cinemas, Limited, and British International Pictures, Limited, merge to be called Associated British Pictures Corporation, Limited, will be increased £3,500,000. The creation of £500,000 of new 5 shilling shares has been arranged. Ordinary shares and £1,500,000 or new 6 per cent. first cumulative £1 preference shares. The existing 5 shilling ordinary shares of the Associated Company are to be exchanged on a share for share basis with the new B.I.P. ordinaries, while one 6 per cent. first cumulative preference share of the latter company, together with 6 pence in cash, is offered for each Associated 7½ per cent. cumulative £1 preference.

Minimum Budget per Monogram Picture Increased to $100,000

Labour Theatre Grievances Aired Before Special Court

Representatives from two unions, representing motion picture employees in Edmonton, were heard at the first public session of the conciliation board, appointed under the Provincial Industrial Disputes Act, at the Edmonton Court, Monday of last week. Members of this Board are Dr. J. M. MacEachey, John Blue and Robert McCreath. Several theatre owners, managers, and operators were present.

One union is the International body, the other the newly-formed organization which is purported to be all-Canadian. The point at issue is which of these two shall be recognized as the official body, to be recognized as a medium for collective bargaining by the managers and operators of the theatres. One of the speakers was A. Farmile, Secretary of the Trades and Labor Council, who advocated the service of the International.

Counsel represented Union and theatres. Col. F. C. Jamieson, M.L.A., R. D. Tighe, and J. E. Wallbridge, K.C., the latter who represented the Entwistle Theatre Interests. Col. Jamieson appeared for the National Union, Local 11, and R. D. Tighe, K.C., for Long Bros., operating the Rialto Theatre.

The chairman, reviewing the Union dispute, stated, "There is evidence enough that both labor unions have, in their rivalry with each other, used tactics which from the standpoint of business ethics, might be regarded as unquestionable and it would serve no good purpose to drag this trouble within the ranks of labor into public discussion".

The International were in favour of holding another meeting by way of an amicable settlement, but the National said such a meeting would be of no service, since they had signed contracts with six theatres, the latter contracts which had to be observed. The suggestion of a secret ballot to determine which Union the operators preferred was turned down.

The Board then decided to proceed with an investigation notifying the Union representatives that it was not interested in the battle of the Unions.

The theatre managers do not consider themselves involved as they cancelled contracts with International and made a new two-year agreement with the National organization.

The National stated they were satisfied with their contract with theatres, etc. The International protested that it was in negotiation with theatre managers when the other contract was signed; and that some of their operators were subject to a virtual "lock-out".

Improving Shows to Increase Box Office Receipts

In view of the facts we are constrained to believe that managers throughout the country are finding the only way to beat the depression is to improve their show. Many have been trying to "get along" with their old equipment, hoping for better times. Now, however, they realize that they'll have to make times better themselves so they're placing orders for new Sound Systems. In the past four weeks we've heard of the Cameo, Montreal; Capitol, Joliette, Quebec; Georges, Ste. Therese, Quebec; re-opening with Northern Electric Sound Systems. The Kinema in Calgary, Alberta, will shortly be operating a similar system; and the Playhouse, Vitcoria, B.C., Imperial, Quebec City, and Cinema de Paris, Three Rivers, Quebec, are having Northern Electric engineers add Wide Range to their "Voice of Action" Sound Systems now operating, thus bringing their equipment up-to-date.

Theatre Benefit Big Success

The theatre benefit at The Imperial, Toronto, in memory of Bill Conway; and directed so that the net fund might be turned over to his widow, met with a generous success. Exhibitors from Ontario, who were not able to attend, sent in their contribution to augment the benefit fund.

There were very few expenses entailed, the entire receipts being practically available. The Famous Players donated the theatre through the courtesy of the President, Mr. N. L. Nathanson, and the manager of the theatre, Jack Arthur, devoted a considerable portion of his time in co-operating with the committee to insure a success.

The show took place on the night of Tuesday, Oct. 24th, 11.30 P.M. O. R. Hanson, President of Associated Exhibitors, Col. John Cooper, all joined in the good work with which they are connected, namely Motion Picture Relief Fund, of which group J. F. Meyers of RKO is Chairman. Four acts were furnished through Romanelli's United Musical Corp. The Imperial, not only furnished the theatre, ushers, orchestra, etc., but also two acts. United Artists donated "Three Little Pigs", that little world-beater that has been hogging playdates around the world and making a "pig of itself" on eating up box-office receipts. The RKO feature, with Ginger Rogers, "Rafter's Romance" was the feature picture.

St. Denis, Montreal, Makes Come Back with "High Fidelity"

The St. Denis Theatre, Montreal, one of the largest theatres in the Dominion, recently re-opened under new management. The RCA High Fidelity Reproducing Equipment was announced.

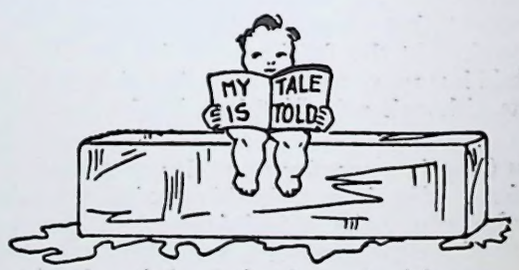
Ray Presents

(Continued from page 4)

number among their number many who pay and never cash in on their promissory notes.

And yet Mae West as the lion-tamer and circus performer, the beautiful and seductive "Tira", has a heart and a brain. "Tell me my future" she urges of the astrologer, "I know my past", and the reader of the Crystal tells her there is a millionaire in her horoscope, which gives "Tira" plenty of scope and sex-line with which to catch him.

YOUR audience, composed of grandpa and grandma, the president of the Oakville Spelling Bee Society, and the Society for the Suppression of Vice, your audience made up of fans, of silk hats and evening wraps, of stenographers, members of Parliament and members of the Board of Education, of all classes in all stations will vote "Tira" a good sport, will laugh at her finesse in trying to be "legitimate", and will tell their friends not to miss "I'm No Angel".



Emil Ludwig, World Famous Writer and Biographer finds Chaplin most Interesting Man in Hollywood